

EL SALVADOR

a house divided

by
Bill Tulp



Bill Tulp
10/88

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Bill Tulp lives in Missoula, Montana, where he works as an artist, forest worker, and personal care attendant. He has been involved in the Missoula group, Montanans for Peace in Central America. A graduate of East Carolina University with a BFA in painting and printmaking, he has traveled in Mexico and Belize. He offers the following statement about *El Salvador—A House Divided*:

"It has been over three years since I finished this comic book, and about five years since the events chronicled within would have ended. The historical events are factual and the family fictional, although drawn from actual events that have taken place. El Salvador has many, too many, families torn apart by this conflict. It would have been wonderful if the pictures I presented in these pages had become obsolete by this time, but the suffering continues.

"Even though this is one of the greatest tragedies of our time, the major papers don't seem to consider it newsworthy. For us living in the United States the greatest tragedy is that the bombing and terrorism committed by El Salvador's military is being almost completely financed by our government, and at a time when our own social programs are being drastically cut.

"I have been interested in the form of the comic book for some time and hoped to make a readable statement to people who may not be otherwise reached. Maybe it will cause a few more people to look at our government's policy in El Salvador and Latin America, and perhaps even become more vocal toward achieving a more peaceful solution than sending more weapons.

"I'd like to thank the following people: Joe Singer, Mother of Ashes press, for the original publication of this book; Joyce Brabner, editor of *Real War Stories*, for bringing it to the attention of Dean Mullaney at Eclipse Comics; Dean Mullaney, Catherine Yronwode, Kurt Hathaway, and the staff at Eclipse; Leonard Rifas of Educomics, for his continued support; my friend, Butch Turk, for his time spent proofreading; and a special thanks to my wife, Dana, my parents, and friends in Missoula for their continued support of my artistic endeavors.

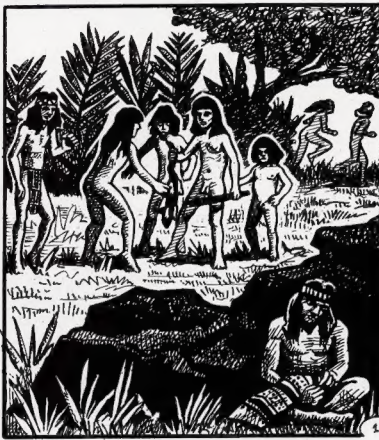
"This book is dedicated to the people of El Salvador."



EL SALVADOR, A HOUSE DIVIDED.
STORY & ART: BILL TULP LETTERS: KRH



BEFORE THE LAND WAS CALLED EL SALVADOR (THE SAVIOR), IT WAS INHABITED BY PIPIL, POKOMAN, AND LENCA INDIANS. THEY NUMBERED FROM 116,000 TO 130,000, AND LIVED COMMUNALLY. ON THESE COMMUNAL LANDS THEY RAISED BEANS, PUMPKINS, CHILIS, AVOCADOS, CORN, AND VARIOUS OTHER CROPS. THEIR LIVES WERE ABOUT TO CHANGE DRASTICALLY.



IN 1524, PEDRO DE ALVARADO CLAIMED WHAT IS NOW GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR FOR SPAIN AND ESTABLISHED A FORT AT SAN SALVADOR.



THE INDIANS BITTERLY RESISTED, BUT WERE FINALLY SUBDUED. THEIR RELIGIONS WERE CRUSHED AND MANY WERE CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY, OFTEN BY FORCE.



TRIBUTE AND LABOR WERE DEMANDED BY THE COLONISTS AND REBELLIOUS INDIANS WERE ENSLAVED.



MANY INDIANS FLED TO REMOTE AREAS TO ESCAPE THE HAND OF THE SPANISH.



THE SPANISH CROWN LEFT THE INDIANS WITH MUCH OF THEIR COLLECTIVE LAND, BUT THE COLONISTS OWNED WHAT THE INDIANS PRODUCED.



IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY, INDIGO (A BLUE DYE) BECAME A POPULAR EXPORT. SLOWLY THE INDIANS' COMMUNAL LAND CAME MORE AND MORE UNDER THE COLONISTS' CONTROL.



IN 1839, EL SALVADOR BECAME AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC. AND SOON AFTER, IN THE 1850'S, COFFEE REPLACED INDIGO AS THE MAIN EXPORT. THIS WAS PARTLY BECAUSE CHEMICAL DYES HAD BEEN DEVELOPED. INDIGO GREW EVERYWHERE AND SELDOM INTERFERED WITH SUBSISTENCE FARMING. COFFEE TOOK MORE LAND AND LABOR, AND RADICALLY ALTERED PATTERNS OF LAND UTILIZATION AND POLITICAL ECONOMY. A NEW ELITE ROSE OUT OF THE COFFEE BUSINESS. THEY AND THE GOVERNMENT WORKED HAND IN HAND AND THE INTERESTS OF THIS NEW OLIGARCHY WERE SERVED, WHETHER IT WAS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OR NOT.



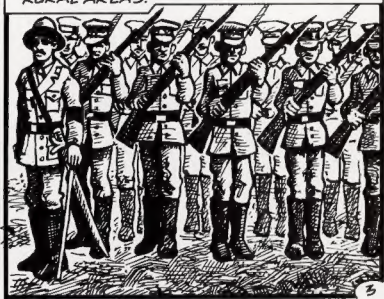
IN 1881, THE GOVERNMENT DECREED THAT IT WOULD EXPROPRIATE THE REMAINING COMMUNAL LAND THAT THE INDIANS DEPENDED ON. LEGISLATION WAS PASSED TO CONTROL AND RECRUIT THE DISPOSSESSED FOR THE COFFEE PLANTATIONS.



BECAUSE OF DISPUTES OVER LAND AND LABOR PRACTICES, THERE WERE CAMPESINO (PEASANT AND WORKER) REVOLTS IN 1880, 1885, AND 1898.



IN 1912, THE GUARDIA NACIONAL WAS FORMED TO KEEP ORDER AND ENFORCE LANDLORD LAW IN RURAL AREAS.



IN THE LATE 1920'S, THE GREAT DEPRESSION CAME AND COFFEE PRICES SLUMPED AS JOBS AND MONEY BECAME MORE SCARCE, THE POPULATION GREW RESTLESS.



BY 1931, THE WORKERS WERE BECOMING ORGANIZED AND DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD. ARAUJO CALLED OUT THE MILITARY TO DISPERSE THE CROWDS.



IN DECEMBER, ARAUJO WAS OVERTHROWN IN A MILITARY COUP. GENERAL MAXIMILIANO HERNANDEZ MARTINEZ SEIZED POWER.



NEW POLITICAL PARTIES WERE FORMED TO TRY TO MEET THE PEOPLES' DEMANDS. IN 1931, THERE WERE ELECTIONS. ALBERTO ARAUJO OF THE LABOR PARTY WON, BUT WAS OPPOSED BY THE OLIGARCHY... AND HIS FOLLOWERS BECAME CORRUPT ONCE IN POWER.



THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS FORMED BY AGUSTIN FARABUNDO MARTI. THEY BEGAN ORGANIZING THE INDIANS, SOME OF WHOM REMEMBERED WHEN THEY STILL HELD COMMUNAL LAND.



IN JANUARY OF 1932, MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD. THE COMMUNIST PARTY WON A NUMBER OF SEATS. GENERAL MARTINEZ REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR VICTORIES.



"ABOUT THE FIRST THING ONE OBSERVES IS THE NUMBER OF EXPENSIVE AUTOMOBILES ON THE STREETS. THERE SEEMS TO BE NOTHING BUT PACKARDS AND PIERCE ARROWS ABOUT. THERE APPEARS TO BE NOTHING BETWEEN THESE HIGH-PRICED CARS AND THE OX-CART WITH ITS BAREFOOT ATTENDANT."

-- MAJOR A.R. HARRIS, U.S. ATTACHÉ TO CENTRAL AMERICA IN 1931 -- ABOUT SAN SALVADOR.

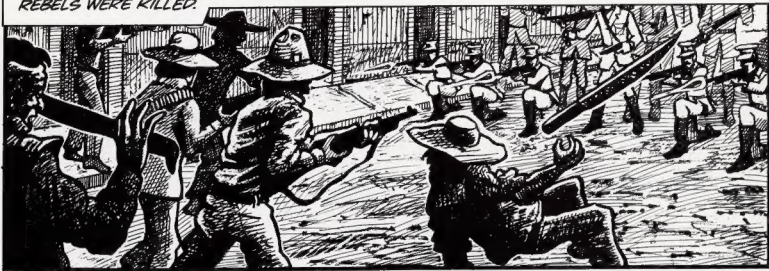
AN INSURRECTION WAS PLANNED BY FARABUNDO MARTI. ON JANUARY 18, FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT, MARTI AND OTHER LEADERS WERE ARRESTED.



ON JANUARY 22ND THE VOLCANO, IZALCO, ERUPTED, SHOWERING EL SALVADOR WITH ASH. GROUPS OF REBELS, MOSTLY INDIANS ARMED WITH MACHETES AND A FEW RIFLES, MARCHED ON MAJOR TARGETS IN THE WESTERN COFFEE REGIONS.



THEY WERE MET BY THE ARMY AND THERE WAS SOME FIGHTING, AFTER WHICH MARTINEZ MOBILIZED HIS FORCES TO CRUSH THE REBELLION. THE FIGHTING CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL DAYS UNTIL THE REBELLION WAS STOPPED. MANY REBELS WERE KILLED.



NOT BEING CONTENT WITH CRUSHING THE REBELLION, THE RULING CLASS WANTED TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE PEASANTS. MARTINEZ OBLIGED THEM. THE MATANZA (MASSACRE) FOLLOWED ABOUT 3,000 PEOPLE, 2% OF THE POPULATION, WERE SLAUGHTERED IN A PERIOD OF 3 DAYS. AMONG OTHER ATROCITIES, PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO DIG THEIR OWN GRAVES AND WERE THEN SHOT.



TO AVOID FURTHER PERSECUTION, THE INDIANS ABANDONED THEIR TRADITIONAL CLOTHING, LANGUAGE, AND CUSTOMS.



AFTER THE "MATANZA," MARTINEZ CONSOLIDATED HIS MILITARY POWER, REPRESSION AND TORTURE ABOUNDED UNDER HIS RULE. IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THEIR WEALTH, THE OLIGARCHY GAVE THE POWER TO GOVERN TO THE MILITARY.

THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS LASTED TO THE PRESENT.



IN 1948, THE STATE WAS MODERNIZED. COLONEL OSCO OSORIO ENCOURAGED COMMERCE AND MINING, DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT. THIS SERVED TO CREATE A LARGER GAP BETWEEN POOR AND RICH.



IN ORDER TO DETER "CASTRO STYLE" REVOLUTIONS "THE U.S., IN THE 1980S GREATLY INCREASED ITS MILITARY AND ECONOMIC INVESTMENTS IN EL SALVADOR.



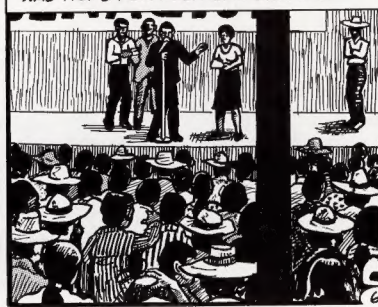
THE OLIGARCHY ENDED UP PARTNERS IN JOINT VENTURES WITH 44 MULTINATIONALS.



THE CONDITIONS GREW WORSE FOR THE PEASANTS. MUCH OF THE LAND THEY STILL RETAINED WAS TAKEN AND WAS CONVERTED TO SUGAR AND COTTON PLANTATIONS ON WHICH THEY WERE FORCED TO WORK.



BUT IN 1968 OPPOSITION PARTIES MADE GAINS IN THE ELECTIONS. MAYBE THERE WAS HOPE FOR POLITICAL CHANGE.



IN 1972, THE COMBINED OPPOSITION PARTIES PUT UP JOSE NAPOLEÓN DUARTE. HE WON, BUT THE BALLOTS WERE CHANGED SO THAT HE APPEARED TO LOSE. A SUBSEQUENT COUP AND UPRISING LEFT 200 DEAD AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES BROKEN.



POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS STARTED TO EMERGE, UNIFYING DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY AND INVOLVING THEM IN DEMONSTRATIONS AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.



FROM 1970 TO 1975, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, MOSTLY U.S., JUMPED FROM 66.6 MILLION DOLLARS TO 104.5 MILLION DOLLARS. SALVADOREANS COULDN'T EVEN AFFORD THE PRODUCTS THEY HELPED TO PRODUCE.



THE REPRESSION INCREASED. ON JULY 19TH 1972, THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY WAS ATTACKED BY PLANES, TANKS, AND ARTILLERY. 200 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED.



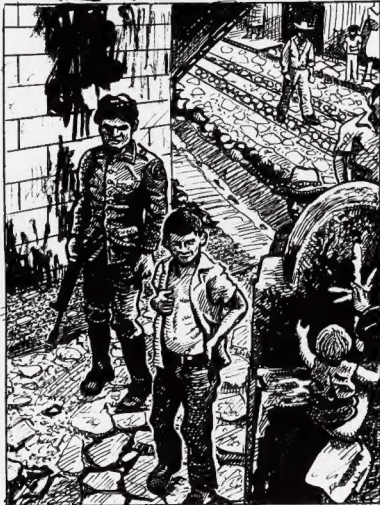
REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS WERE ALSO EMERGING, MIXING POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRATEGIES. THEY WORKED WITH THE PEASANTS IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.



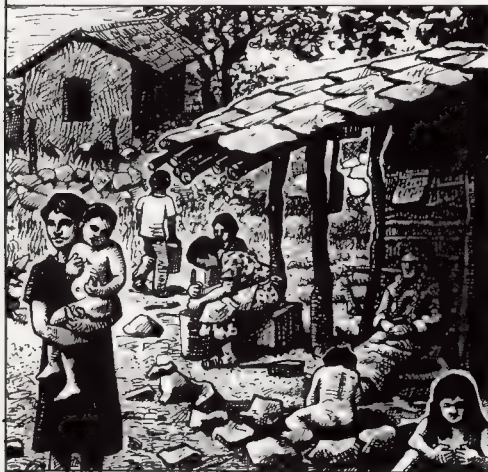
BY THE MID 1970'S, THE WORSENING ECONOMIC AND LIVING CONDITIONS, COUPLED WITH THE REPRESSION BY THE MILITARY AND OLIGARCHY, HAD CREATED AN IDEAL ATMOSPHERE FOR REVOLUTION.



CHALATENANGO PROVINCE # 1976



THE ZULETA FAMILY HOME.
THE FATHER AND OLDER SON ARE OUT LOOKING FOR WORK.



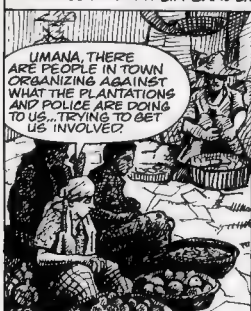
THE WOMEN AND OLDER CHILDREN LOOK AFTER THE FAMILY AND THEIR MEAGER PLOT OF LAND
AT TIMES, THE ENTIRE FAMILY MUST GO OUT AND LOOK FOR WORK ON THE LARGE PLANTATIONS.



MOST OF THE LAND IN EL SALVADOR HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE BIG LANDOWNERS, THE
ORIGINAL OWNERS DISPLACED. 2% OF THE POPULATION OWNS 60% OF THE LAND.
UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT IN THE RURAL AREAS IS A PERMANENT 45%.



THE MOTHER, UMANA, GOES INTO TOWN TO SELL PRODUCE FROM THEIR GARDEN.



I HEAR MORE TALK EVERY DAY ABOUT PEOPLE DISAPPEARING AND BODIES SHOWING UP AROUND THE COUNTRY. I DON'T WANT MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY DISAPPEARING ONE NIGHT.



BEST NOT TO GET INVOLVED. THE POLICE HAVE EARS EVERYWHERE. THERE'LL BE ANOTHER MASSA...



IT'S TRUE. THE ARMY AND DEATH SQUADS ARE ALL OVER. THEY HAVE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. THEY GIVE GOOD JOBS AT THE BIG PLANTATIONS TO PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE THEM WITH INFORMATION AND NAMES.



CARLOS MELARA AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS ARE IN ORDER. THEY GOT GOOD JOBS, TOO.



THEY'RE WATCHING US. PEOPLE WILL BE DISAPPEARING FROM HERE SOON.

NOT EVEN THE CHURCH IS SAFE ANYMORE.



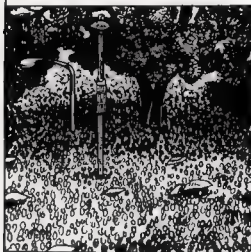
THERE ARE MORE OF US POOR. MAYBE WE SHOULD GET ORGANIZED.



OF COURSE! THE ELECTIONS ARE ALL FRAUDS! THESE RICH PEOPLE DON'T WANT REFORM.



FEBRUARY, 1977--GENERAL CARLOS ROMERO SEIZES POWER FOLLOWING FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS. 50,000 PEOPLE CAMP OUT IN DOWNTOWN SAN SALVADOR IN PROTEST.



AFTER 5 DAYS, THE CROWD NUMBERS 4,000. THE NATIONAL GUARD AND POLICE ARRIVE AND TURN HIGH POWERED HOSES ON THE PROTESTERS, TRAPPING THEM IN A CHURCH.



THE NATIONAL GUARD AND POLICE TEARGAS THE CHURCH; THEN BEAT THE PEOPLE WITH THEIR GUN BUTTS AND SHOOT THEM.

100 ARE GUNNED DOWN.



UMANA BECOMES INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN A NEW WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE HAS LITTLE SPARE TIME.



UMANA'S HUSBAND, CERON.



UMANA, THINK OF THE DANGER. WHAT ABOUT OUR KIDS?

CERON, IT'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO. CAN'T SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING! THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE.

LATER THAT NIGHT.

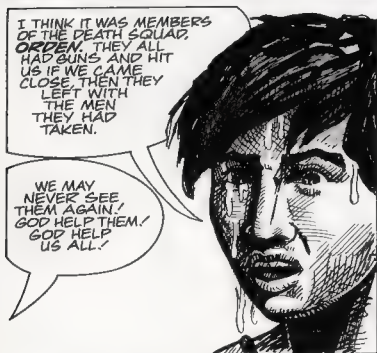
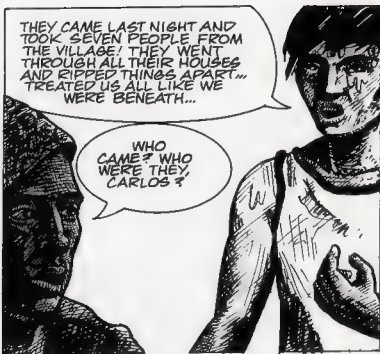


I CAN'T FIND ANY WORK, AND IF I DO, THEY DON'T PAY A DAMN THING, AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT. SHE JOINS THAT DAMN GROUP. HELL, THEY'RE KILLING PEOPLE FOR LESS.

COME ON, CERON, YOU'RE WORKING YOURSELF UP. TAKE IT EASY.



DAMN IT, PEDRO! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW? LEAVE ME ALONE.



DURING THE COFFEE HARVEST SEASON, THE WHOLE FAMILY HAS TO FIND WORK, LEAVING THE GRANDMOTHER TO LOOK AFTER THEIR PIECE OF LAND. THEY FIND WORK ON ONE OF THE LARGE PLANTATIONS.



ALL EXCEPT THE YOUNGEST WORK. THE MEN ARE THE ONLY ONES CONSIDERED OFFICIALLY WORKING. THE MEN GET VERY LOW WAGES, THE WOMEN EVEN LESS, AND THE CHILDREN PRACTICALLY NOTHING.



THE FAMILIES HAVE VERY POOR FACILITIES TO MAKE USE OF ON THE PLANTATION.



THE OVERALL PAY FOR THE FAMILY IS HARDLY WORTH THE WORK AND WON'T LAST LONG, BUT THEY MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHATEVER THEY CAN GET.



RETURNING FROM HARVEST, LIMANA, THE MOTHER, WORKS ALL THE HARDER WITH HER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION AND THE CHURCH, WITH WHAT LITTLE SPARE TIME SHE HAS.



THE DAUGHTER, YANIRA, IS BITTER AND REBELLIOUS. SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION, TAKING THE SIDE OF THE MORE MILITANT GROUPS.



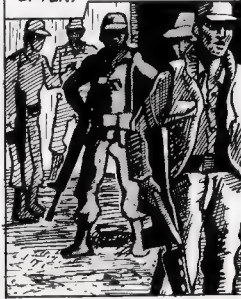
THE SON, ALCIDES, IS BORED AND LISTLESS. HE WANTS MORE THAN HE HAS.



THE FATHER, CERON, IS ALWAYS TRYING TO GET WORK TO KEEP THE FAMILY FED, SOMETIMES WITH ALCIDES. WHEN HE'S NOT LOOKING OR WORKING, HE'S DRINKING.



AROUND THE VILLAGE THE ARMY AND KNOWN ORDEN MEMBERS ARE SEEN MORE OFTEN.



THERE ARE MORE REPORTS OF PEOPLE DISAPPEARING AND BODIES BEING FOUND.



POPULAR AND GUERRILLA ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO INCREASE AROUND THE COUNTRY.



REPRESSION AGAINST CHURCH FIGURES IS NOW COMMONPLACE. MANY ARE THREATENED AND THEN SHOT BY THE MILITARY.



GUERRILLA GROUPS KIDNAP OLIGARCHS AND FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN TO RAISE MONEY FOR THEIR POLITICAL WORK AND TO BUY WEAPONS.



AMIDST THE WORST CONDITIONS, JOYOUS EVENTS STILL TAKE PLACE.



ALCIDES AND HIS FRIENDS DECIDE THEY'D RATHER BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE.

RAMON, TOMAS! COME ON, LET'S NOT HANG AROUND HERE.





BUENOS DÍAS, MUCHACHOS.
WE HAVE SOMETHING TO
TALK TO YOU
ABOUT.

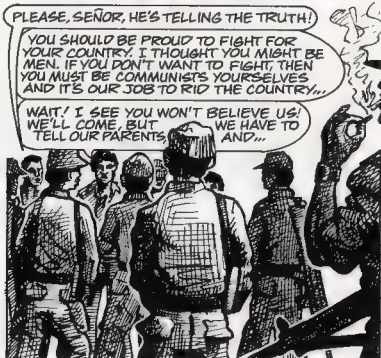


WE'RE LOOKING FOR RECRUITS FOR
THE ARMY TO HELP US FIGHT
COMMUNIST SUBVERSIVES TRYING
TO TAKE OVER OUR COUNTRY.
YOU BOYS LOOK ABOUT
THE RIGHT AGE.



NO, SEÑOR. WE'RE ALL 15 OR 16 AND
VICTOR HERE IS ONLY 12. YOU CAN'T...

I CAN'T WHAT? I DON'T
BELIEVE THAT STORY. I
THINK YOU'RE SCARED,
OR EVEN COMMUNISTS
YOURSELVES.



PLEASE, SEÑOR, HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!

YOU SHOULD BE PROUD TO FIGHT FOR
YOUR COUNTRY. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE
MEN. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT, THEN
YOU MUST BE COMMUNISTS YOURSELVES,
AND IT'S OUR JOB TO RID THE COUNTRY...

WAIT! I SEE YOU WON'T BELIEVE US!
WE'LL COME, BUT WE HAVE TO
TELL OUR PARENTS AND...



THIS BOY CAN GO BACK AND
TELL YOUR PARENTS. THE REST
OF YOU COME WITH ME.

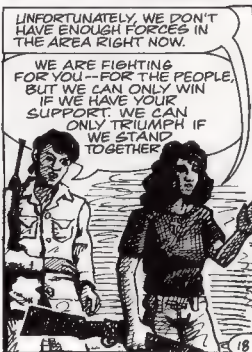
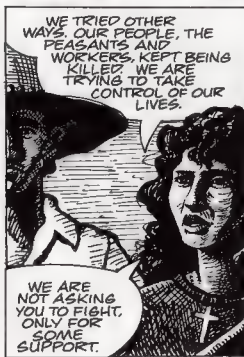
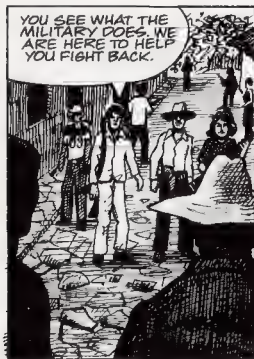
VICTOR, HURRY
BACK AND TELL
MAMA WHAT
HAPPENED.



FOR FOUR FAMILIES A DAY THAT STARTED IN
JOY ENDS IN GRIEF.

ON ONE OF HER TRIPS INTO THE VILLAGE, YANIRA WITNESSES AN ABDUCTION.





JULY, 1979--THE SANDINISTA LED POPULAR INSURRECTION IN NICARAGUA OUSTS THE DICTATOR ANASTASIO SOMOZA, WHOSE FAMILY HAS BEEN IN POWER FOR 50 YEARS. THEY SET UP A REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.



BY DECEMBER, 1979 THE DEATH TOLL IS RISING AND CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN CIVILIANS AND THE MILITARY CONTINUE TO ESCALATE.



JANUARY 10TH--UNIFICATION OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS, BUT NOT THE GUERRILLA FORCES, TAKES PLACE UNDER THE BANNER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE MASSES. THEY CALL FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THE EXISTING REGIME, AN END TO THE OLIGARCHY'S POWER, LAND REFORM, A PEOPLE'S ARMY, HEALTH CARE, AND A LITERACY CAMPAIGN.



OCTOBER, 1979--IN EL SALVADOR, GENERAL SOMERZO IS OVERTHROWN IN A MILITARY COUP. THE ARMED FORCES TELL THE PEOPLE THEY WILL END THE VIOLENCE AND ENACT SOCIO-ECONOMIC REFORMS. CIVILIANS JOIN IN THE NEW JUNTA TO HELP ENACT THESE REFORMS.



MILITARY-CIVILIAN JUNTA

JANUARY, 1980--MOST OF THE CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA RESIGN IN DISGUST, SEEING THEY HAVE NO POWER OVER THE MILITARY TO END THE BLOODSHED. MANY JOIN THE POPULAR AND REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS.



THEY STAGE A MARCH OF UNITY ON JANUARY 22ND IN SAN SALVADOR. THE 48TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1932 MATANZAS. ESTIMATES OF THE SIZE OF THE CROWD REACH 200,000. DURING THE DEMONSTRATION GUARDS AND SHARPSHOOTERS OPEN FIRE. THE DEATH TOLL IS ESTIMATED AT 67 AND THE WOUNDED AT 250.



YANIRA, WE THINK YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE TOO OUTSPOKEN IN THE COMMUNITY. YOU MUST REALIZE YOU'RE ENDANGERING THE FAMILY BY SAYING SOME OF THE THINGS YOU'VE SAID.

BUT IT'S WHAT I THINK... HOW I FEEL. THEY'VE TAKEN MY BROTHER, AND PEOPLE WE KNOW. WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.



I KNOW IT'S HOW YOU FEEL. SOMETIMES I FEEL THE SAME WAY, BUT THERE ARE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS TO DEAL WITH IT, MORE PEACEFUL WAYS.

WE'VE SEEN HOW THOSE WAYS WORK. DEATH SQUADS STILL TAKE PEOPLE AWAY TO KILL AND TORTURE THEM. IT'S ABOUT TIME WE FOUGHT BACK.



I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT ANY MORE!

YANIRA! COME BACK HERE! WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET!



MEANWHILE, ALCIDES, HAVING BEEN PRESSURED INTO THE ARMY, HAS GONE THROUGH BASIC TRAINING. HIS UNIT HAS CAPTURED SOME PRISONERS WHILE ON A SWEEP THROUGH AN AREA IN THE COUNTRY'SIDE, LOOKING FOR GUERRILLAS AND GUERRILLA SYMPATHIZERS.

ALCIDES, RIGHT?

SÍ, COMANDANTE.

I WANT SOME INFORMATION FROM THESE GUERRILLA SYMPATHIZERS.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY'RE WITH THE GUERRILLAS?

ARE YOU QUESTIONING ME?

NO, COMANDANTE. HOW AM I TO GET THIS INFORMATION?

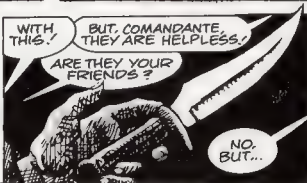


WITH THIS!

BUT, COMANDANTE THEY ARE HELPLESS.

ARE THEY YOUR FRIENDS?

NO. BUT...



A RITE OF ORDEAL...

THEN GET ON WITH IT.



...TO GET ALL THE MEN INVOLVED IN THE ATROCITIES, THEN ALL ARE EQUALLY GUILTY, AND NONE CAN BETRAY THE OTHERS.



WHILE LOOKING FOR WORK AROUND THE COUNTRY, CERON AND HIS FELLOW WORKERS ARE CONSTANTLY HARASSED BY THE MILITARY POLICE AND THE PARAMILITARY POLICE, MANY OF WHOM WORK FOR THE RICH LANDLORDS.

LET ME SEE YOUR I.D. PAPERS!



A COUPLE OF TIMES HE VIEWS THE BODIES HE HAS PREVIOUSLY ONLY HEARD ABOUT. THEY DIDN'T ALL DIE A QUICK DEATH.

OH, MY GOD!

THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CUT TO PIECES.



HE ALSO WITNESSES A GUERRILLA AMBUSH ON A MILITARY CONVOY WHILE TRAVELING ON THE HIGHWAY.



CERON REFLECTS ON HIS ARGUMENTS WITH BOTH HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER, AND TRIES TO SORT THINGS OUT IN HIS HEAD. INSTEAD, HIS THOUGHTS ONLY BECAME MORE CONFUSED.



AS CERON RETURNS HOME, HE FINDS THAT THE MILITARY PRESENCE AROUND THE AREA HAS INCREASED IMMENSELY SINCE HE'S BEEN GONE.



HE LEARNS THAT THERE IS A LARGE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT IN THE AREA AND THE GUERRILLAS ARE GROWING STRONGER AND BOLDER. THE MILITARY AND DEATH SQUADS ARE DETERMINED TO KILL THE REBELS, EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF CIVILIANS.



I WASN'T ABLE TO BRING BACK MUCH. I WORK HARD AND GET ALMOST NOTHING.



I KNOW WE DON'T HAVE MUCH, BUT FOR OUR FAMILY'S SAFETY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STAY HOME. THE SITUATION IS MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE.



MARCH 24TH 1980--ARCH-BISHOP OSCAR ROMERO, AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF GOVERNMENT REPRESSION AND A VOICE FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF SALVADOREAN PEOPLE, IS SHOT TO DEATH WHILE SAYING MASS.



MARCH 30TH--AT ARCH-BISHOP ROMERO'S FUNERAL, THE CATHEDRAL AND PLAZA IN SAN SALVADOR ARE PACKED WITH OVER 80,000 PEOPLE. EXPLOSIONS, GUN-FIRE, AND TRAMPLING DURING THE ENSUING PANIC KILL 39 AND INJURE OVER 200.



APRIL 1ST--TWO DAYS AFTER ROMERO'S FUNERAL, THE U.S. APPROVES \$7 MILLION DOLLARS IN TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE EQUIPMENT FOR THE SALVADOREAN MILITARY TO STRENGTHEN THE ARMY'S KEY ROLE IN REFORMS.



MARCH 6TH 1980 -- THE BASIC LAW OF AGRARIAN REFORM IS ANNOUNCED. INSTEAD OF HELPING THE PEASANTS, IT IS USED AS A COVER FOR REPRESSION. GOVERNMENT TROOPS, WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH ORDEN, RAZE VILLAGES AND DESTROY CROPS. REPRESSION IS GREATEST WHERE THE POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS ARE STRONG.



THE ZULETAS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS GO ABOUT THEIR DAY TO DAY CHORES, BUT WITH A FEAR WITHIN THEM.



IT'S GETTING SO I CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT. I HAVE DREAMS OF HOUSES BURNING AND PEOPLE SCREAMING.



ALFREDO AND I ARE MAKING PLANS TO LEAVE IF IT COMES TO THAT. WE DON'T WANT TO, BUT WE SHOULD BE PREPARED IF WE SUDDENLY HAVE TO LEAVE



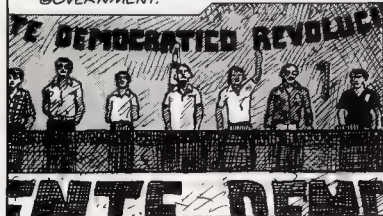
I SAW NUMBERS OF HOMELESS FAMILIES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WITHOUT ANYWHERE TO GO. MANY ARE LIVING IN HUGE ENCAMPMENTS BEING SET UP.



PRAY TO GOD THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN HERE.



APRIL 18TH 1980--THE REVOLUTIONARY COORDINATING COMMITTEE JOINS FORCES WITH OTHER CENTER AND LEFTIST GROUPS TO FORM THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT (FDR), A COALITION OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, CIVIC, PROFESSIONAL AND LABOR GROUPS, AND THE POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS. THE FDR ANNOUNCES A PLATFORM FOR A REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.



IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, FAMILIES FLEEING THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR HOMES AND VILLAGES START TO COME THROUGH THE AREA.

"... THEN DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT OUR CROPS WERE BURNED. AFTER THAT WE QUICKLY GATHERED UP FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES, AND LEFT OUR HOME.



THE APPREHENSIONS OF THE ZULETAS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS ARE RAISED WHEN SMOKE IS SEEN IN THE DISTANCE.

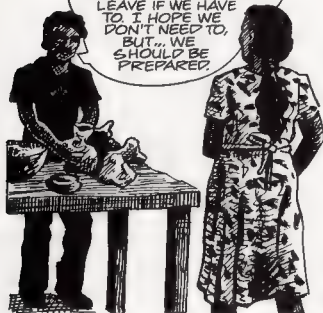


IT WAS TERRIBLE! WHEN WE WENT INTO THE VILLAGE THE NEXT DAY, IT'D BEEN DESTROYED THERE WERE PEOPLE LYING IN THE STREET... PEOPLE I RECOGNIZED.

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, THE NEXT THING I KNEW, WE WERE FAR AWAY FROM THERE.



UMANA, I THINK WE SHOULD BE READY TO LEAVE IF WE HAVE TO. I HOPE WE DON'T NEED TO, BUT... WE SHOULD BE PREPARED.



OH, CERON! GOD WILL SEE US THROUGH THIS. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE MEANT FOR PEOPLE TO KEEP SUFFERING LIKE THIS.



A FEW DAYS LATER, GUNSHOTS ARE HEARD IN THE DISTANCE, SOME FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE VILLAGE.



PEOPLE START TO COME FROM THAT GENERAL DIRECTION. THIS SOON TURNS INTO A STEADY STREAM OF HUMANITY.



THE ARMY ATTACKED OUR VILLAGE, AND THEN STARTED LOOTING OUR HOUSES.



...THEN TWO SOLDIERS BURST INTO OUR HOUSE AND TOOK MY HUSBAND FOR BEING A COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER.



I BARELY ESCAPED AFTER THEY KILLED MY BROTHER. NOW THEY'RE HEADED IN THIS DIRECTION.



THE ZULETAS DECIDE TO FLEE TOWARD THE HONDURAN BORDER WITH THE OTHER REFUGEES, HOPING TO FIND SANCTUARY.

I KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE HARD ON YOU, GRANDMA, BUT WE ALL HAVE TO LEAVE.



THEY LEAVE THEIR HOME BEHIND THEM...



... AND JOIN THE OTHER PEOPLE FLEEING.



HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS FLEE THEIR HOMES IN EL SALVADOR, HOPING TO FIND REFUGE SOMEWHERE.



IN THEIR PATH LIES A VILLAGE THAT HAS BEEN RAZED BY A MILITARY SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION.



ALTHOUGH THEY SEE A FEW ARMED MEN, THEY MANAGE TO AVOID ANY MAJOR PATROLS.



ON THE MORNING OF MAY 14TH 1980 THE REFUGEES REACH A SETTLEMENT ON THE SUMPUL RIVER. ON THE OTHER SIDE LIES HONDURAS.



THE QUIET OF THE MORNING IS DESTROYED BY A SPRAY OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE.



A MILITARY SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION, SEEKING TO CONTROL GUERRILLA ACTIVITY, HAS CAUGHT UP TO THE REFUGEES. IT PROCEEDS TO CARRY OUT WHAT IS CALLED AN "OPERACION DE LIMPIEZA" (CLEAN UP OPERATION).



THE ARMY IS JOINED IN THE MASSACRE BY MEMBERS OF ORDEN.



THE REFUGEES SWARM INTO THE RIVER TO ESCAPE THE SOLDIERS AND TO REACH HONDURAS. THE SOLDIERS CONTINUE FIRING AT THEM FROM THE BANKS.



WHEN THEY REACH THE OTHER SIDE THE REFUGEES FIND THEIR WAY IS BARRED BY HONDURAN TROOPS WHO PUSH THEM AWAY.



HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE TRAPPED BETWEEN THE TWO HOSTILE FORCES.



VANIRA IS SEPARATED FROM THE FAMILY IN THE CONFUSION AND FLEES INTO THE WOODS. SHE MANAGES TO AVOID THE SOLDIERS AND DOESN'T STOP RUNNING FOR A LONG TIME.



UMANA HAS BEEN KILLED IN THE INITIAL GUNFIRE. CERON TRIES TO HELP WHAT REMAINS OF THE FAMILY ACROSS THE RIVER.



CERON FLOUNDERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER. HE IS BARELY ABLE TO KEEP HIMSELF AFLOAT.



HE DOES MANAGE TO KEEP A HOLD OF ANTONIA, HIS YOUNGEST DAUGHTER...



AND BRINGS HER TO SHORE.



HE FEELS A SHARP PAIN ENTER HIS SHOULDER AND THE BLOOD FLOW OUT. HE TRIES TO KEEP HIS HOLD ON CONSCIOUSNESS...



BUT ISN'T ABLE TO AND FINALLY BLACKS OUT.





CERON GOES TO THE SCENE OF THE MASSACRE. TO SEE IF ANY OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS SURVIVED. WHAT HE SEES CAUSES HIM TO FALL TO HIS KNEES AND WEEP.



ON MAY 14TH 1980, 600 REFUGEES, SEEKING TO EVADE A MILITARY SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION, ARE KILLED WHILE TRYING TO CROSS THE SUMPUL RIVER INTO HONDURAS. THIS IS THE FIRST JOINT EFFORT BY SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN TROOPS.



BY MAY, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED BY THE ARMY, SECURITY FORCES, AND DEATH SQUADS IN 1980 HAS REACHED 1,200.



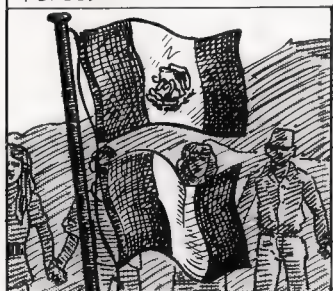
NOVEMBER, 1980--THE FIVE GUERRILLA GROUPS FORM A JOINT COMMAND TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE BANNER OF THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN). THEY SOON JOIN FORCES WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT (FDR) TO FORM THE F.D.R.-FMLN.



DECEMBER 4TH 1980--THE BODIES OF FOUR U.S. CHURCHWOMEN, WHO HAD BEEN TORTURED AND KILLED, ARE FOUND IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE NEAR THE AIRPORT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SUSPENDS ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID, CITING "REPORTS OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF SECURITY FORCES."



AUGUST 28TH--THE GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE AND MEXICO RECOGNIZE FDR-FMLN AS A "REPRESENTATIVE POLITICAL FORCE."



LATER THAT MONTH, SIX F.D.R. LEADERS, WHO HAVE RETURNED TO EL SALVADOR TO SEEK DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT, ARE TORTURED AND KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES.



MASS HELD FOR SLAIN F.D.R. LEADERS.

JANUARY, 1981--THE FMLN LAUNCHES A MAJOR OFFENSIVE WHICH BEGINS ON THE 10TH AND LASTS FOR ABOUT A WEEK. THE GUERRILLAS REPORT 43 PRINCIPAL ACTIONS SOME THAT LAST A NUMBER OF DAYS.



JANUARY 17TH 1981--THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SENDS EMERGENCY AID--5 MILLION DOLLARS IN LETHAL WEAPONS. MARCH 2ND 1981--THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION SENDS ANOTHER 25 MILLION IN MILITARY AID, ALONG WITH 20 MILITARY ADVISORS. FEBRUARY 1ST 1982--THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION BYPASSES CONGRESS AND SENDS AN ADDITIONAL 55 MILLION DOLLARS IN EMERGENCY MILITARY AID.



BY THE END OF 1981, THE FMLN HAS INDISPUTABLE CONTROL OVER 14 OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY, MAINLY IN THE RURAL AREAS AND AROUND THE VOLCANOS.



APRIL, 1982 -- LEADER OF THE ULTRA-RIGHT WING ARENA PARTY, ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON, WHO HAS STRONG CONNECTIONS TO THE DEATH SQUADS, IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUTE ASSEMBLY, FOLLOWING U.S. WARNINGS THAT AID COULD BE JEOPARDIZED IF D'AUBUISSON HAD A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT.



JUNE, 1982 -- AN ARMY "SWEEP" -- A SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION -- TAKES PLACE IN CHALATENANGO PROVINCE. THREE U.S.-TRAINED BATTALIONS PARTICIPATE.



MORE THAN TWO YEARS HAVE NOW PASSED SINCE THE MASSACRE ON THE SUMPUL RIVER. ALCIDES ZULETA, FINDING HIS FAMILY GONE AND HOME RAZED, RE-ENLISTS IN THE ARMY WITH HIS COMPADRES, NOT KNOWING WHAT ELSE TO DO.

ALCIDES' BATTALION ALSO TAKES PART IN THE JUNE OPERATION.



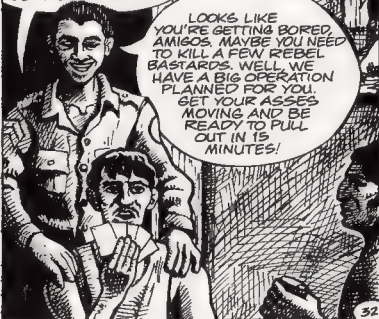
ALCIDES, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DIDN'T LEAVE THIS DUMP WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE! ME? I'M LEAVING AS SOON AS MY TIME'S UP!

THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO GO BACK TO. NO JOBS OR ANYTHING. AT LEAST I GET FED HERE MOST OF THE TIME.



PLAY YOUR HAND, AND LET ME WORRY A...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING BORED, AMIGOS. MAYBE YOU NEED TO KILL A FEW REBEL BASTARDS. WELL WE HAVE A BIG OPERATION PLANNED FOR YOU. GET YOUR ASSES MOVING AND BE READY TO PULL OUT IN 15 MINUTES!



YANIRA ZULETA HAD FLED FROM AND ESCAPED THE SUMPUL RIVER MASSACRE. SOON AFTER, SHE JOINED A REBEL UNIT IN THE LARGELY FMLN CONTROLLED PROVINCE OF CHALATENANGO.



THE GUERRILLAS LIVE AMONG THE LOCAL POPULACE AND SHARE IN THE DAILY TASKS, SUCH AS COOKING AND FARMING.



PEOPLE ARE TAUGHT HOW TO LIVE UNDER WAR CONDITIONS AND CLASSES ARE HELD TO TEACH READING AND WRITING. IN ADDITION TO THESE CLASSES, THE COMBATANTS HAVE DAILY MILITARY DRILLS.

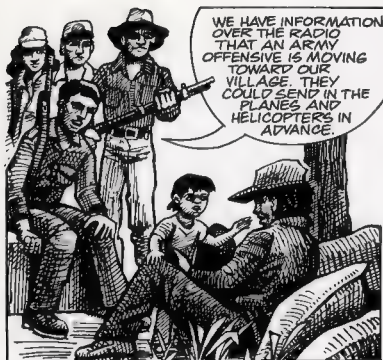


LOCAL MILITIAS AUGMENT THE GUERRILLA FORCES. THEY ARE POORLY OUTFITTED AND ONLY FIGHT DURING EMERGENCIES. ORDINARILY, THEY GO ABOUT THEIR INDICES, THE PRIMARY ONE BEING TO TEND THEIR CROPS AND LIVESTOCK.



THE GUERRILLAS AND THE CIVILIAN POPULATION HAVE SEPARATE GOVERNING BODIES -- THE FORMER TO DEAL WITH MILITARY MATTERS, AND THE LATTER WITH CIVIL CONCERNS.

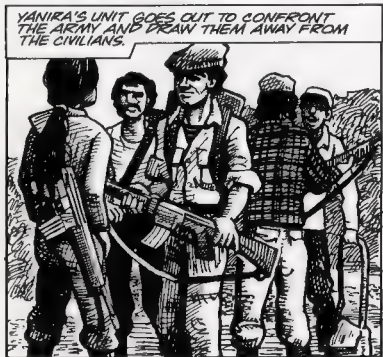




WE HAVE INFORMATION OVER THE RADIO THAT AN ARMY OFFENSIVE IS MOVING TOWARD OUR VILLAGE. THEY COULD SEND IN THE PLANES AND HELICOPTERS IN ADVANCE.



WE MUST EVACUATE THE CIVILIANS IMMEDIATELY AND THE COMPAÑEROS AND MILITIA MUST BE MADE READY TO ENGAGE THE ARMY. WE WILL SHOW THE MILITARY HOW WE CAN FIGHT TO KEEP THEM FROM MURDERING OUR PEOPLE.



YANIRA'S UNIT GOES OUT TO CONFRONT THE ARMY AND DRAW THEM AWAY FROM THE CIVILIANS.



BEFORE THEY ARE FULLY ORGANIZED, PLANES ARE HEARD IN THE DISTANCE.

EVERYBODY, RUN FOR THE SHELTER! THE PLANES ARE COMING!



PEOPLE ARE STILL SCRAMBLING FOR THEIR DUG-OUT BOMB SHELTERS AS A-37s SCATTER THE AREA WITH BOMBS.

A FEW MILES DISTANT AND A COUPLE DAYS LATER, IN THE MIST OF A JUNE RAINSTORM, ALCIDES' UNIT IS EXCHANGING FIRE WITH A GROUP OF REBELS.



WE'RE IN A BAD POSITION, BOYS! WE'LL HAVE TO RETREAT. LUIS, AMILCAR, ALCIDES! PROVIDE US COVER FIRE! WE'LL COVER YOU WHEN WE REACH A BETTER POSITION.



THEY'RE READY, ALCIDES. LET'S GO.



UNDER HEAVY FIRE, ALCIDES RUNS.



WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HIM. WE'RE LOSING MEN. LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.



AS HIS UNIT RETREATS, ALCIDES IS LEFT TO THE REBEL ARMY.



ALCIDES IS CARRIED BACK TO A TEMPORARY REBEL ENCAMPMENT.



HERE, HE IS TREATED BY A LOCAL SANITARIO (MEDIC). THE SUPPLIES SHE HAS TO WORK WITH ARE VERY BASIC AND CRUDE.



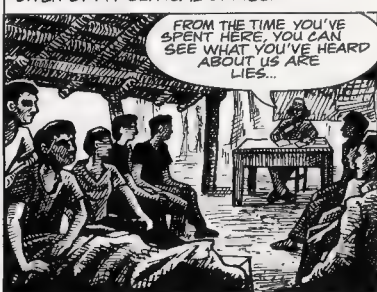
AFTER THE ARMY PULLS OUT OF THE TERRITORY, THE REBELS MOVE BACK TO THEIR MAIN ENCAMPMENT.

THEY TOLD ME IN THE ARMY HOW BRUTALLY YOU TREAT YOUR PRISONERS, BUT I HAVE BEEN TREATED WELL HERE.

HAHA... THAT IS BECAUSE IT IS HOW THEY TREAT PEOPLE... AS YOU WELL KNOW.



AFTER A FEW DAYS AND WITH A VERY INFECTED LEG, HE IS TAKEN TO HEAR A TALK WITH THE OTHER PRISONERS, GIVEN BY A POLITICAL OFFICER.



...AND WE WELCOME ANY OF YOU WHO DECIDE TO STAY HERE AND JOIN OUR RANKS. ALL WHO DECIDE TO GO BACK WILL BE RELEASED INTO THE CUSTODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AS SOON AS ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

RTC



HEY, ALCIDES! LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST EACH OTHER. NO HARD FEELINGS, THOUGH, DID YOU KNOW YOUR SISTER'S IN THE AREA?

YANIRA?



WORD GETS BACK TO
YANIRA THAT ALCIDES IS
IN A NEARBY HOSPITAL.

ALCIDES!

OH, GOD! YANIRA!

BUT WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE REST OF
THE FAMILY?

YANIRA TELLS HIM OF
THE MASSACRE.

AFTER THAT, I CAME HERE
AND JOINED THE REVOLUTION
TO FIGHT AGAINST THE
ONES WHO KILLED OUR
FAMILY.

WHAT
OF YOU,
ALCIDES?

I DON'T KNOW. MY LEG...
IT'S INFECTED. IT MIGHT
HAVE TO BE... CUT OFF, IF
I HOPE TO LIVE. WITHOUT
MY LEG, WHAT CAN
I DO? I FEEL
HELPLESS.

I'M GLAD TO SEE
YOU, ALCIDES. I DIDN'T
THINK I'D SEE ANY OF
OUR FAMILY AGAIN.
PLEASE TRY TO LIVE...
FOR ME. THERE'S BEEN
ENOUGH DEATH IN
OUR FAMILY.

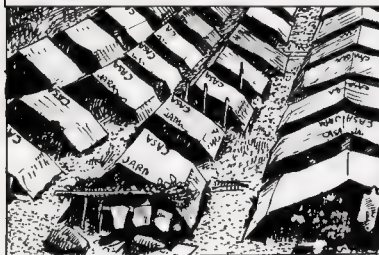
SOME OF THE
PRISONERS ARE GOING
BACK WITH THE RED
CROSS. SOME ARE
STIVING. WITHOUT A
LEG, I'M NO GOOD
EITHER WAY.

EVERY LIFE IS
PRECIOUS HERE, ALCIDES.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY
ONE TO SUFFER. WE
HAVE TO ENDURE AND
HELP EACH OTHER IN
WHATEVER WAY
WE CAN.

IF YOU HAVE FAITH--
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE,
TO TEACH TO... OH,
ALCIDES, YOU HAVE
TO TRY!

I KNOW, I KNOW.
IT'S UP TO ME. I'VE HEARD
IT BEFORE. WELL, I DON'T
KNOW IF IT'S WORTH
IT ANYMORE.

AUGUST, 1982 — U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, ESTIMATES 222,000 TO 272,000 EL SALVADORAN REFUGEES LIVE IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO. THE STATE DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES OVER 500,000 ARE LIVING ILLEGALLY IN THE U.S.



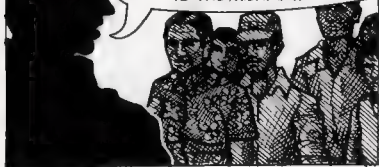
WITHIN THE CAMP A COOPERATIVE GARDEN HAS BEEN STARTED WHICH CERON HELPS WORK. HERE THEY OBTAIN A PORTION OF THEIR FOOD. THE REST MUST BE SHIPPED IN.

THESE FOOD SOURCES ARE NOT ENOUGH TO KEEP THE PEOPLE HEALTHY.



THESE REFUGEE CAMPS ARE RUN LIKE CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

AMIGOS, FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION, WE ARE INTRODUCING NEW RULES... YOU CANNOT LEAVE YOUR TENTS BETWEEN 7 AT NIGHT AND 7 IN THE MORNING... NO MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN THE CAMP BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND 7 A.M.... TALK LESS TO INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS... AND BE MORE FRIENDLY TO THE MILITARY.



IN ONE OF THESE REFUGEE CAMPS WITHIN HONDURAS, CERON ZULETA, AND HIS DAUGHTER, ANTONIA, HAVE TAKEN SHELTER.



THEY OBTAIN SOME MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND WORKERS FROM THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER ON REFUGEES AND VARIOUS SUPPORT AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS HELP THEM, BUT DISEASE AND MALNUTRITION STILL CLAIM MANY LIVES.



EVEN WITHIN HONDURAS, THEY ARE HARASSED BY SALVADORAN MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY PERSONNEL WHO COME INTO THE CAMP. PEOPLE ARE STILL ABDUCTED AND DISAPPEAR.



ONE DAY, THE PEOPLE OF THE CAMP ARE CALLED TOGETHER BY THE SOLDIERS, AND THEY ARE GIVEN AN ULTIMATUM BY ONE OF THE OFFICERS.

YOU MUST GET READY TO BE MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION WHERE WE CAN PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES BETTER.



THE REAL REASON IS THAT U.S. ADVISERS HAVE PUT PRESSURE ON THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT AND THE U.N. TO RELOCATE THE REFUGEES FURTHER INSIDE HONDURAS. THE BORDER AREA CAN THEN BE MILITARIZED AND USED TO LAUNCH ATTACKS INTO REBEL-HELD ZONES IN EL SALVADOR.



THE PEOPLE IN THE CAMP RESIST LEAVING. THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE MOVED ANOTHER TIME, FURTHER AWAY FROM THEIR HOMETOWN AND FAMILIES, AND FROM WHAT THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED HERE, INCLUDING THE CROP THEY ARE SOON TO BRING IN. CERON CANNOT HOLD BACK HIS RAGE AND FRUSTRATION ANY LONGER.

WHY CAN'T YOU LEAVE US ALONE? OUR CHILDREN ARE SICK AND STARVING, AND YOU WANT US TO MOVE AGAIN. I REFUSE TO LEAVE MY HOME ANOTHER TIME!



THE HONDURAN MILITARY STEPS UP ITS REPRESSION TO CHANGE THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE. THERE IS PHYSICAL ABUSE OF THE REFUGEES AS WELL AS SEVERAL DISAPPEARANCES. CERON IS AMONG THOSE PUNISHED FOR SPEAKING OUT.



THE REFUGEES ARE FORCIBLY MOVED UNDER MILITARY ESCORT TO ANOTHER CAMP FURTHER INSIDE HONDURAS.



THESE REFUGEES, BEING STRONGLY CHRISTIAN, AS ARE MOST OF THE PEASANTS IN EL SALVADOR, HOLD A SERVICE TO PRAY FOR AN END TO SUFFERING FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THE PEOPLE STILL BACK IN EL SALVADOR.



BACK IN CHALATENANGO, THE SANITARIOS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO STOP THE INFECTION IN ALCIDES' LEG, AND THE LIMB HAD TO BE AMPUTATED TO KEEP IT FROM SPREADING. SOON AFTER, SOME OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR ARE RELEASED TO THE RED CROSS, WHILE OTHERS DECIDE TO STAY IN REBEL TERRITORY AND BECOME GUERRILLAS. ALTHOUGH ALCIDES STAYS, HE FEELS OF NO USE TO ANYONE.



SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE WITNESSES AN EVENT WHICH BRINGS SOME OF THE EXPERIENCES FROM HIS YEARS IN THE ARMY INTO SHARP FOCUS.



A MAN WHO HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF A LOCAL DEATH SQUAD IS CAPTURED BY THE GUERRILLA SOLDIERS. HE HAS BEEN ACOUSED OF VARIOUS KILLINGS AND THE RAPE OF A LOCAL WOMAN, BUT SINCE HE IS NOT A SOLDIER, HE IS HANDED OVER TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES.



HE IS PUT ON PUBLIC TRIAL AND ASKED WHY HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THIS DEATH SQUAD.

AS A MEMBER OF THE SQUAD I HAD SPECIAL PRIVILEGES SUCH AS SPECIAL PREFERENCE FOR AGRICULTURAL LOAN CREDITS AND THE PROMISE OF YEAR ROUND EMPLOYMENT AT THE HACIENDA. IF I REFUSED TO JOIN, I'D HAVE BEEN BRANDED A COMMUNIST.



AS THE MAN TELLS OF HIS CRIME AGAINST A LOCAL MAN HE LABELS A "SUBVERSIVE," ALCIDES RECALLS HIS OWN INITIATION.

WE DRAGGED VICTOR FROM HIS HOUSE AND THEN HACKED HIM TO DEATH WITH MACHETES.

THEN WE COVERED OUR BODIES IN HIS BLOOD. WE ALL SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND HAD TO PROVE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ACT.

ANYONE OF US WHO LEFT THIS BROTHERHOOD WAS MARKED FOR DEATH LEST HE CONFESS AGAINST THE OTHERS.



AFTER A PUBLIC DEBATE THE VILLAGERS DECIDE THAT RELEASING THIS MAN WOULD POSE A DANGER TO THE COMMUNITY, AND HE WILL HAVE TO BE PUT TO DEATH. HE IS PROMPTLY EXECUTED BY A MILITIA FIRING SQUAD AND BURIED.



SOON AFTER THIS, THE VILLAGERS HOLD A PRAYER SERVICE TO ASK FORGIVENESS FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. AFTER THE TRIAL, ALCIDES FEELS MORE UNCOMFORTABLE AND OUT OF PLACE THEN HE HAD BEFORE.



BECAUSE OF THE ARMY'S BOMBING AND WANTON DESTRUCTION OF CROPS, THE PREVIOUS YEAR, THE PEOPLE START RUNNING SHORT ON FOOD SUPPLIES.



PROVISIONS OF FOOD HAVE TO BE RATIONED OUT. CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN ARE GIVEN FIRST PRIORITY. MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IS ALSO, AS ALWAYS, IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY.



A COUPLE OF WOMEN ARE SENT INTO SAN SALVADOR TO PURCHASE MUCH NEEDED MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR THE LOCAL CLINIC. ON THE WAY BACK THEY ARE STOPPED BY A MILITARY PATROL.



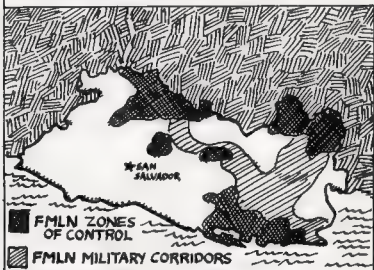
THEY ARE SEARCHED AND ARRESTED. AFTER THIS THEY ARE NEVER SEEN AGAIN.



OCTOBER, 1982 -- U.S. AMBASSADOR DEANE HINTON, CRITICIZES "GORILLAS" OR RIGHT-WING "MAFIA" FOR DESTROYING EL SALVADOR. HE DECLARES "30,000 SALVADORANS HAVE BEEN MURDERED, NOT KILLED, IN BATTLE, MURDERED" SINCE 1979. THE WHITE HOUSE ORDERS HIM TO STOP HIS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.



IN 1983, THE FMLN IS ABLE TO CONSOLIDATE AREAS IT HAS GAINED AND ESTABLISH MILITARY CORRIDORS CONNECTING ITS ZONES OF CONTROL, GIVING IT INCREASED MOBILITY WITHIN THE COUNTRY.



DURING THE SAME YEAR, DIRECT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN BOMBING OPERATIONS IN THE FORM OF U.S. ADVISERS, ACCOMPANYING SALVADORAN PILOTS ON "TRAINING MISSIONS," LEADS TO A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE SCALE OF THE AIR WAR. THE BOMBING HAS LITTLE EFFECT ON THE GUERRILLAS, BUT INFLECTS A HIGH TOLL ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.



DECEMBER, 1983 -- FMLN FORCES OVER- RUIN THE BARRACKS OF THE 4TH INFANTRY BRIGADE AT EL PARAISO, CHALATENANGO, EL SALVADOR'S 4TH LARGEST MILITARY BASE, KILLING 100 SOLDIERS AND RELEASING 135 PRISONERS TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.



NEW YEARS DAY, 1984 -- REBEL FORCES DESTROY THE CUSCALTAN BRIDGE, THUS SEVERING THE EASTERN THIRD OF THE COUNTRY, MUCH WHICH IS UNDER FMLN CONTROL. FROM THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, THESE TWO ACTIONS CONSTITUTE THE MOST STAGGERING MILITARY VICTORIES OF THE FOUR YEAR WAR.



THE TWIN VICTORIES BY THE FMLN ARE CELEBRATED BY YANIRA AND HER COMPANEROS IN THE LIBERATED ZONES OF EL SALVADOR.



LATER, IN THE SPRING OF 1984, CERON, STILL SUFFERING FROM THE HARSH TREATMENT OF THE HONDURAN SECURITY FORCES, BECOMES VERY ILL. HE IS TENDED TO BY A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.



WHILE IN THE MIDST OF A SEVERE FEVER, HE DIES. HE IS BURIED IN THE SIMPLE MANNER OF THE CAMP, AS SO MANY ARE.



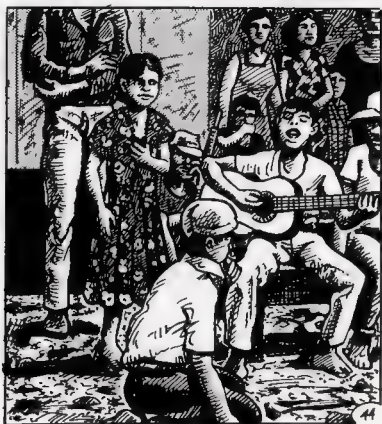
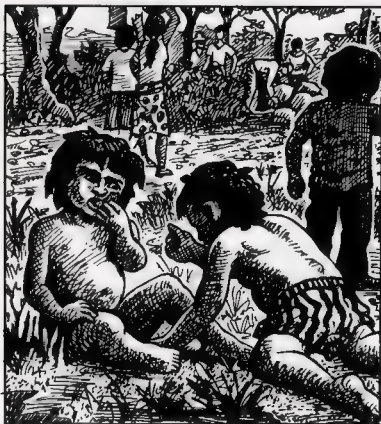
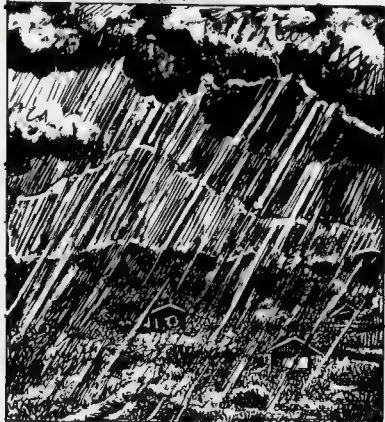
ANTONIA BECOMES ONE OF THE MANY CAMP ORPHANS.



THE PRICE OF THE WAR IS HIGH FOR CHILDREN LIKE ANTONIA. SHE, LIKE MANY OTHERS, MUST SALVAGE WHAT SHE CAN FROM THE SITUATION AND LEARN TO LIVE FROM DAY TO DAY.



IT IS PLANTING SEASON IN CHALATENANGO, EL SALVADOR, AND IN THE REFUGEE CAMP ACROSS THE BORDER IN HONDURAS, AND THE SUMMER RAINS ARE UPON THEM. THE PEOPLE ONCE MORE PLANT THEIR CROPS OF CORN, BEANS, AND SQUASH... AFTERWARDS THEY MUST WAIT, AND HOPE THEIR CROPS AREN'T DESTROYED AND THAT THEY SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THEIR HARVEST.



AND STILL THE WAR GOES ON...

DATELINE: EL SALVADOR

A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

26 March 1984: "Salvadorans cast ballots Sunday in a presidential election scarred by bureaucratic flaws that kept thousands from voting."—Associated Press, *Missoulian*, March 26, 1984.

May 1984: "Major naval maneuvers have overlapped with land exercises bringing 33,000 U.S. troops to the (Central American) region since May 1984."—*Invasion, a guide to U.S. Military presence in Central America*.

August 1985: "The Honduran army last week became the first military in Latin America to kill and wound legally recognized refugees in a U.N. administered camp...Soldiers entered the camp without warning and opened fire...two refugees were dead, 13 wounded and 25 seriously beaten according to relief workers. One two-month old girl was kicked to death by a soldier."—Paul, Martin; "Raid on refugees signals new strategy," *Guardian*, September 18, 1985.

1985: "U.S. backed air war in El Salvador voted the most unreported story of 1985 by a distinguished panel of media observers."—*Alert*, July-August, 1986.

1 May 1986: "...El Salvador's largest demonstration since 1980. Observers calculated that 75 to 90 thousand urban and rural workers formed contingents stretching over dozens of city blocks, while thousands lined San Salvador's streets, vocal in their...denunciations of President Duarte's economic and military policies."—*Alert*, May-June 1986.

10 October 1986: "El Salvador was rocked by an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale, which killed 1,200 people, injured 10,000, left 200,000 homeless and severely damaged hundreds of buildings in San Salvador."—*Alert*, November 1986.

October 1986: "One day after the earthquake the FMLN proposed a case fire to facilitate relief efforts. The government of President Jose Napoleon Duarte rejected the offer...Government forces meanwhile have continued rocket and aerial attacks in the countryside and church and union members assisting the church in its relief efforts have been arrested and imprisoned."—*Sofjourners*, February 1987.

1986: "Fragmentation and incendiary bombs may be irrevocably damaging the already ecologically overburdened Salvadoran countryside...In the northern province of Chatenago, government bombing raids have destroyed forests and fields, making cultivation impossible...To the southeast in the San Vicente province, the bombing of agricultural fields has created an acute food crisis, depriving peasants of corn, beans, and rice. El Salvador's air force has dropped more than 3,000 tons of U.S.-made bombs on its own people. More than 20% of all Salvadorans are now homeless...these 1.2 million refugees represent a higher percentage of Salvadorans than the comparable number of Vietnamese displaced at the height of the Vietnam War."—*Militarization: The Environmental Impact*, "Low Intensity Scorched Earth in Central America," The Environmental Project on Central America (EPOCA).

1987: "U.S. aid has become so important to the Salvadoran economy that next year El Salvador will become the first country in history to receive more in aid from the U.S. (\$608 million in fiscal year 1988) than it is raising from domestic sources of revenue (\$582 million)."—Conally, Michael; "Bankrolling Failure; The wages of war in El Salvador,"—*Alert*, December 1987-January 1988.

July 1988: "...Acting in or out of uniform, the Salvadoran military bears responsibility for the overwhelming majority of the 70,000 civilian deaths since 1979...Military officers routinely deny their role in the torture and killings, attributing them to the shadowy "Death Squads" commonly portrayed as bands of freelance vigilantes acting independently of any higher authority."—Thomson, Kate; "El Salvador's death squad governments,"—*Alert*, July-August 1988.

August 1988: "El Salvador's stubborn eight-year old war is closing in on the capital. Urban guerrillas and revolutionary groups intent on sparking a popular uprising have surfaced on San Salvador's streets, sharpening differences between the armed rebels and their more moderate political allies, foreign diplomats and rebel political leaders say."—Larmer, Brook; "Salvador guerrillas take war to capital,"—*Christian Science Monitor*, August 1988.

January 1989: "The Salvadoran guerrilla movement has scored dramatic victories in its latest offensive against the U.S.-backed government and military. Their successes—audacious attacks on military bases in the capital and an intimidation campaign against the country's mayors that has forced 40 to resign in the last month—have provoked a strong reaction from the military, say diplomats, academics, and human rights leaders. The appearance of several new "Death Squads" and evidence related to the bombings at the national university and offices of the Lutheran Church, these analysts say, suggest the army is engaging in covert attacks against individuals and groups it terms sympathetic to the leftist rebels."—Norton, Chris, *Christian Science Monitor*, January 13, 1989.

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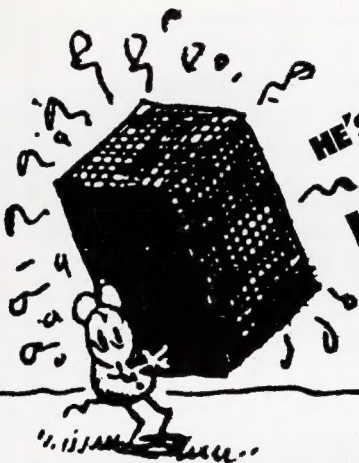
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